

KENTUCKY FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION IN EDUCATION**

INITIAL MISSION AND CONCEPT

The following text and graphics have been adapted, with special thanks, from the strategic plan of the Colorado Legacy Foundation (February 2012).

MISSION

The foundation will exist to catalyze bold, comprehensive, systemic change in Kentucky's educational system. It will pursue increased student outcomes by identifying levers for driving student achievement and educator quality, supporting improved policy and its conversion into effective and sustainable practices and helping to build implementation capacity at the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), the Council on Postsecondary Education and in school districts and higher education institutions statewide. The foundation promotes creative and collaborative solutions by conducting research, spurring dialogue, incubating innovative ideas, brokering partnerships, identifying proof points, and scaling adoption of promising practices.

CONCEPT

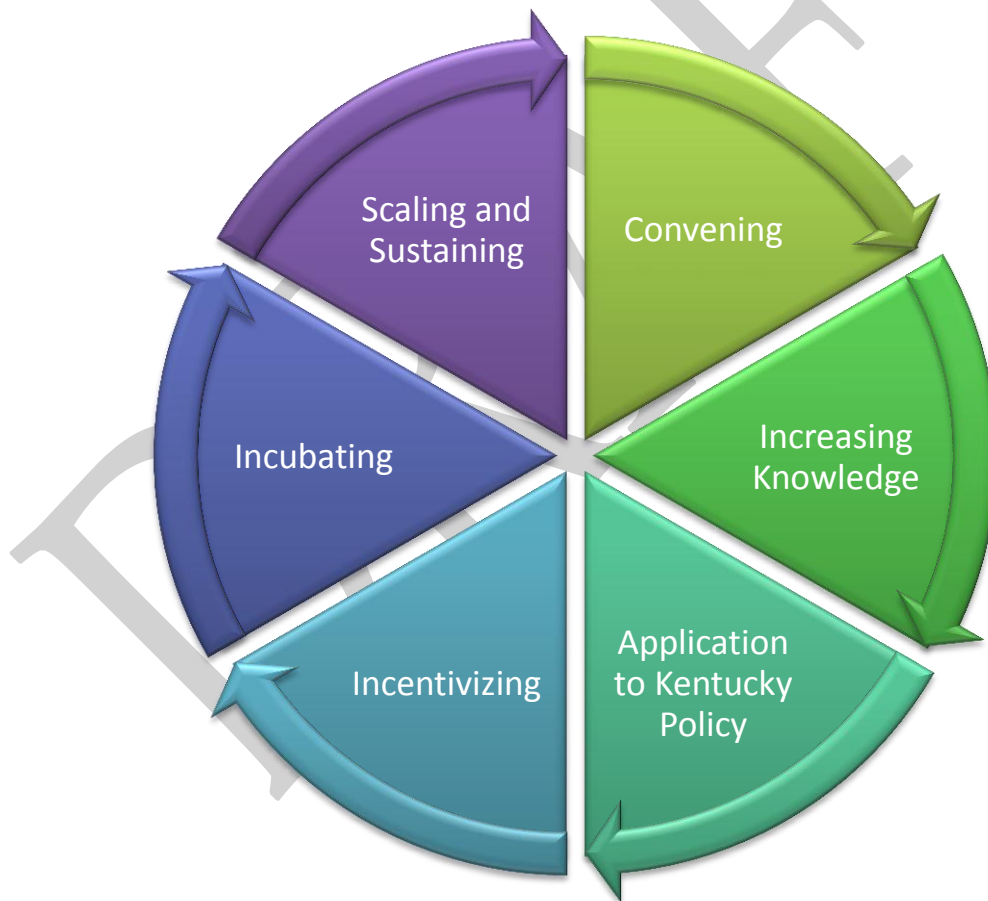
The foundation will exist as an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation (or other 501 appropriate entity) created to give "life" to the mission outlined above. A key element of successfully driving that mission will be the securing of funding for all initiatives from a funding pool that includes national, regional, state and local philanthropy with a desire to partner with the foundation to bring systemic changes to Kentucky's educational system.

The foundation shall have its own staff and an independent Board of Trustees that will direct the work of the foundation.

** This is a place holder name. A name will be chosen during the filing process.

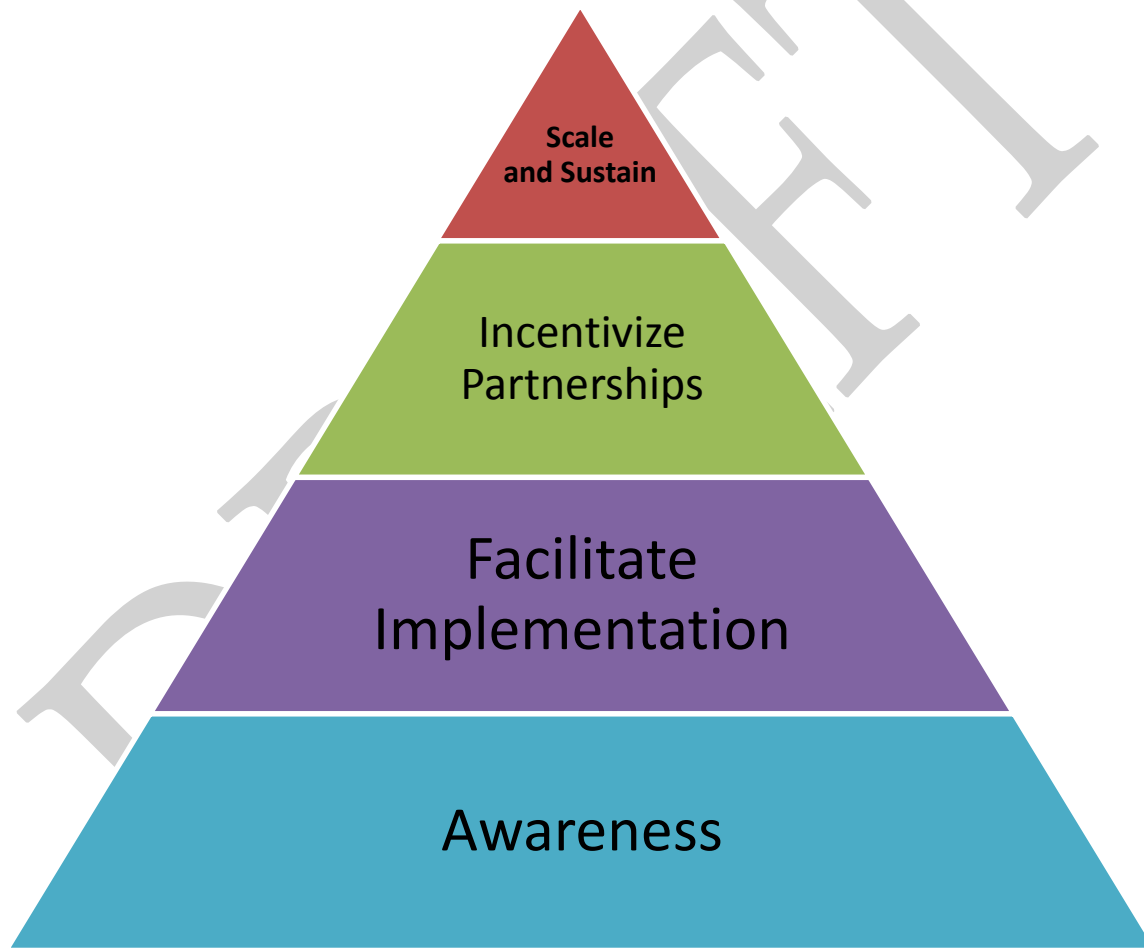
THEORY OF ACTION

The foundation will make meaningful improvements to education delivery through a clear, consistent theory of action that affords it the agility to engage KDE, CPE, school districts and schools, higher education institutions as well as thought leaders, at every stage of readiness. Each of the component parts is mutually reinforcing and is not contingent upon one linear process.



STRATEGIES FOR TARGETED IMPACT

The foundation will use targeted strategies matched to desired impacts through awareness building with information, facilitating implementation with tools and resources, investing in and creating incentives for districts to use promising models and scaling and sustaining those that demonstrate high potential for return on investment.



VALUES

1. **Collaborative Partnerships Matter:** The foundation values collaboration is a key to successful educational improvement and will create, through convening and partnerships, a safe, open space to broker conversations and bridge connections between people, organizations, and agencies.
2. **Excellence Breeds Excellence:** The foundation values building a broad base of willing constituents who adopt and spread research and promising evidence-based practices. The foundation shall serve as a beacon for excellence by incubating, celebrating and promoting organizations, schools, educators, and ideas that are promising. Excellence is also reflected in the ethic, and responsibility with which it approaches its work.
3. **Innovation Requires Innovative Thinking:** The foundation values the need to challenge current assumptions about education and will seek to shift entrenched paradigms by conducting research, hosting outside-the-box dialogues and seeding innovative ideas within existing organizations.
4. **Failure Supports Innovation:** The foundation values the notion that taking calculated risks is critical to discovering innovative solutions and will invest in and incubate new – sometimes untested – approaches to educational reform. While some of these fail at the pilot stage, this bold approach is the most promising way to offer alternatives and move beyond outdated schooling paradigms.
5. **Capacity Building Is Critical:** The foundation values the Kentucky Department of Education, the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), school districts and schools and will support them in key areas of education reform that will result in improved student outcomes across the state. The foundation shall be a thought partner, critical friend and capacity builder of the KDE, CPE, school districts and schools and also believes that supporting the creation of effective policy at the district level will sustain initiatives.
6. **Educators Are Valued Professionals:** The foundation values the idea that the role of educators is to create change in the educational landscape and to create equity for student outcomes. Effective educators deployed strategically hold the potential to stimulate student achievement and close the achievement gap. By many accounts, educators are among the nation’s greatest resources—they should be supported, evaluated, developed, and managed as highly valued professionals.
7. **Honest Brokers Build Trusting Partnerships:** The foundation values its independence. It shall neither endorse nor support any political party and will not lobby for specific legislation. Rather it will focus on providing the support required to put good policy into practice. By acting as an honest broker, the foundation shall remain a source of credible information and support over time.